

REMARKS***Status Of Claims***

Claims 33 and 34 have been withdrawn *with traverse*. Claims 1-32 are currently under examination.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by US Patent 5,745,834 to Brampton. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires in part “an organic polymer component that comprise less than 3% by weight of the total weight of the powdered blend.” This is a critical range, as the detailed description of the application specifies, because going higher will decrease the density of the SLS green part, and ultimately the density of the end product. (See Application, Pg. 14, Lines 3-17). Brampton does not teach or suggest an organic polymer component which is less than 3% by weight of the total weight of the powdered blend. Rather, Brampton discloses an organic polymer which is 5 to 15% by weight of the total weight of the powdered blend. (See Brampton, Col. 4, Lines 9-11 & Lines 57-60). As a result, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Brampton, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn, and that Claim 1 be allowed.

The remaining claims under examination all depend from independent claim 1 and add additional limitations. As such, each of the remaining claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance, and their rejections are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the aforesaid, reconsideration and allowance of all claims at issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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